

How the Library Can Help You Survive the First Year of Law School

Throughout your law school career, the library, and the librarians, can help make things easier. This short guide contains information on our services that are most important to 1Ls. To find out more about what the library offers for students, check out our Services for Students web page:

<http://www.law.umaryland.edu/marshall/services/student-services.asp>

Save time . . . ask us! If you need a book, a database, or just some information, don't hesitate to ask one of the librarians. You'll find us at the desk on the 2nd floor, and the Research Librarians all have offices on the 4th floor of the library, next to the TAL computer lab. No one expects you to arrive at law school understanding how to do legal research. The legal databases are more complicated to use than Google – but have a lot more information. Stop by any time, and don't worry – you aren't bothering us; we want to help!

Each course in the law school is assigned a liaison librarian; that's the person to contact if you need help finding information for that class. You'll find the liaison's name and contact details on the course's Blackboard page. In addition, a list of all librarians is at the end of this guide.

Reading Room: Just to the right of the library entrance is the Reading Room. Besides being a great place for quiet study, the shelves in here hold basic legal treatises for many courses, including all of the first-year courses. Hornbooks (one-volume texts on a broad area of law, written specifically for law students) are a wonderful way to clarify something you might be confused about after class. We also have Nutshells (outlines of specific areas of law, usually written by a noted authority on the subject) and multi-volume treatises, which are more in-depth descriptions of a legal topic. For help finding the right book to answer your question, just ask at the User Services Desk. A brief list of books that can help with your classes this year is on pages 2-3 of this guide.

Law School Survival Skills: While you may be thinking that nothing can make this year easier, believe it or not, there are books out there to help you learn to study, brief cases, and generally understand the law school experience. Here are some of our favorites:

- J. Deaver, The Complete Law School Companion (KF282 .D4 1992) (includes chapters on daily survival in the classroom, course outlines, taking exams and writing papers)
- H. Shapo & M. Shapo, Law School Without Fear: Strategies for Success (KF386 .S44 2002) (information on how to brief a case, where law comes from, legal reasoning, what precedent is and how to use it).

- K. Llewellyn, The Bramble Bush: On Our Law and Its Study (KF272 .53 1973) (the classic introduction to the life of a law student).

Law Dictionaries: These can be a great help to first year law students, especially during the first few weeks of school, when all your cases seem to be full of words you've never heard before. The two most commonly used dictionaries are Black's Law Dictionary (Ref. KF156 .B53 2004) and Ballentine's Law Dictionary (Ref. KF156.H36 1994). You'll find other law dictionaries in the same area of the Reference Collection.

Another useful source is Words & Phrases (KF156.W6), which contains definitions the courts have given to legal words and phrases. It has more definitions than one-volume dictionaries, and all are given in context.

Exams: Yes, exams are a long way away, but in case you want to see sample exam questions in your courses, the library maintains a file of previous course exams to which faculty members may choose to contribute. Exams are available under the Quick Links menu on every library web page, as well as from the Current Students page on the law school web site.

What about some advice on taking exams? Take a look at these books:

- A. Burkhart, How to Study Law and Take Law Exams in a Nutshell (Reading Room KF283 .B87)
- J. Delaney, How to Do Your Best on Law School Exams (KF283 .D44 1982)
- J.C. Dernbach, A Practical Guide to Writing Law School Essay Exams (KF 283 .D47 2001)
- R.M. Fischl, Getting to Maybe: How to Excel on Law School Exams (KF283 .F57 1999)

Treatises for First Year Courses: You may find these helpful when you have a question about something you learned in class. Books marked with RR before the call number are located in the Reading Room.

Civil Procedure

- E. Chemerinsky, Federal Jurisdiction (RR KF8858 .C48 2003)
- D.P. Currie, Federal Jurisdiction in a Nutshell (RR KF8858 .Z9C87 1999)
- Friedenthal, Kane & Miller, Civil Procedure, (RR KF8840 .F72 2005)
- F. James & G. Hazard, Civil Procedure (RR KF8840 .J3 2001)
- M.K Kane, Civil Procedure in a Nutshell (RR KF8841 .K36 2007)

Constitutional Law

- C.J. Antieau, Modern Constitutional Law (KF4550.A74 1997)

- T.E. Baker & J. Williams, Constitutional Analysis in a Nutshell (RR KF4550 .Z9 H53 2003)
- J.A. Barron & C.T. Dienes, Constitutional Law in a Nutshell (RR KF4550 .Z9 B35 2005)
- E. Chemerinsky, Constitutional Law: Principles and Policy (RR KF4549 .C44 2005)
- J. Nowak & R. Rotunda, Constitutional Law (RR KF4550 .N6 2004)

Contracts

- Calamari & Perillo on Contracts (RR KF801. C26 1998)
- F. Miller, Sales and Leases of Goods in a Nutshell (RR KF915 .Z9S7 2003)
- C. Rohwer & A. Skrocki, Contracts in a Nutshell (RR KF801 .Z9R62 2006)
- B. Stone, U.C.C. in a Nutshell (RR KF889.S765 2005)
- J.J. White & R. Summers, Uniform Commercial Code (RR KF890 .W45 2000)

Criminal Law

- J. Dressler, Understanding Criminal Law (RR KF9219 .D74 2001)
- W. LaFave, Criminal Law (RR KF9219 .L38 2003)
- A.H. Loewy, Criminal Law in a Nutshell (RR KF9219.3 .L63 2003)

Property

- R. Bernhardt, Real Property in a Nutshell (RR KF570 .Z9 B47 2005)
- D.D. Burke, Personal Property in a Nutshell (RR KF705 .Z9 B83 2003)
- W. Stoebuck & D. Whitman, The Law of Property (RR KF570 .C86 2000)
- L. Waggoner, Estates in Land and Future Interests in a Nutshell (RR KF605 .W33 2005)

Torts

- J.L. Diamond, Understanding Torts (KF1250 .D53 2000)
- D.B. Dobbs, The Law of Torts (RR KF1250 .D6 2000)
- E. Kionka, Torts in a Nutshell (RR KF1250 .Z9 K53 2005)
- Prosser & Keeton on the Law of Torts (RR KF1250.P73 1984)

CALI: CALI lessons are interactive, computer-based tutorials provided by the non-profit Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction. There are over 675 lessons available to help you study 32 different legal subject areas at www.cali.org. Lessons are completely free for law students and are great for mastering material during the semester or studying for exams.

Printing and Photocopying: For both printing and copying, the first thing you need is a GoPrint card. These can be purchased from the machines in the

imaging rooms on Level 2 and 4. You pay \$1 for the card, and then add money for copies. You can reuse the same card again and again, so write your name on it and keep it in a safe place! Copiers are located on levels 2 & 3, printers on every level. Instructions for printing are on the web at:

<http://www.law.umaryland.edu/dept/it/pay4print.asp>

Lexis and Westlaw also offer free printing to law students from their databases; these printers are located in the TAL Center on the 4th floor of the library.

Study Room Reservations: If you and at least one other student would like a quiet place to meet or study, you can reserve a group study room for up to 3 hours in any one day. Reservations can be made via the web up to one week in advance. Choose “Reserve a Room” from the Quick Links menu on any library web page.

Librarian Contact Information

Contact information for all Library staff is on the web at:

<http://www.law.umaryland.edu/marshall/aboutlibrary/staffdirectory.asp>